



Approved 9-9-03

KING COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2003

EXCHANGE BUILDING, CONFERENCE ROOM 6A

Members Present: Shauna Cheney, Howard Miller, Jim Nobles, Eleanor Owen, Ron Sterling, Clifford Thurston, Gwendolyn Williams

Members Absent: Jack Fuller (excused), Edward Gutkowski -awaiting County Executive appointment (excused), Mindy Meyring (excused), Freda Monroe, Helen Nilon (excused), Debra Roszkowski

Guests Present: Linda Brown (KCASAAB), Frank Jose (NAMI-Greater Seattle), Pam Pratt (board applicant)

Staff Present: Sherry Hamilton, Geoff Miller, Rhoda Naguit, Amnon Shoenfeld

I. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Board Chair Howard Miller convened the meeting at 4:33 p.m. After short welcome remarks, he asked everyone to introduce him/herself.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ron Sterling made a motion, which was seconded by Eleanor Owen, to accept the June 10, 2003 minutes as submitted. The motion passed and was unanimously approved.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A. Presentation of Joshua Freed

Since Joshua Freed was out of town, Howard postponed his introduction until the August board meeting. Howard explained that although there is currently a moratorium of four months for new board appointments from already represented districts, the Nominations Committee decided to go ahead with Joshua's nomination since nominating process had already been set in motion prior to the board's moratorium action last month. Joshua is from the same district vacated by Alice Howell and he is highly recommended for board appointment by the Nominations Committee.

B. Legislative Advocacy & Public Affairs Committee Re-organization

Geoff Miller gave a report on the June 25th meeting of the Legislative Advocacy and Public Affairs Committee. One legislative item was about the passage of the limited prescription reform bill. With regards to the budget, the Mental Health budget received no rate cuts, while the Chemical Dependency's budget received an overall increase due to additional funding for criminal justice related treatment.

Also discussed was the need to streamline and re-energize the Legislative Committee. The committee agreed to continue to gather information for the boards and analyze and make recommendations to the boards regarding legislative and public policy issues. Members also agreed to continue to advocate for the boards during the legislative session.

The leadership structure of the committee was also discussed. Members agreed to change the current co-chairs structure to a rotating Committee Chair and Vice Chair. These positions will be held by members of either the King County Mental Health Advisory Board (KCMHAB) or the King County Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Administrative Board (KCASAAB). The same board may not hold both positions at one time. The term of office of either position is one-year beginning July 1. Each year in June, a new Chair and new Vice-Chair will be elected.

Roger Goodman was elected Committee Chair and Eleanor Owen was elected Vice Chair. Their terms begin July 1, 2003 and end June 30, 2004. The Chair for next year will be from KCMHAB.

In addition to members from each board, the Legislative Committee will invite community representatives to serve on the committee. Criteria for selection of those members will be discussed and developed at the next meeting.

It was also determined that the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Boards each need to take official action to ratify this action by the Legislative Committee. KCMHAB is amending its by-laws. KCASAAB will simply need to vote its approval on the Chair's motion.

This year's Legislative Forum will be held at the Kirkland Performing Arts Center November 18, 2003, from 7:30 PM until 9:00 PM, with initial registration beginning at 7:00 PM.

The next meeting of the Legislative Committee is **Wednesday, July 23rd at 4 pm** at the Exchange Building.

C. Board By Laws Changes

The following are changes of the bylaws under Article VIII, Section 3. Changes are in italics and underlined.

Article VII – Committees, Section 3. Committee Membership. Each committee will consist of at least three Mental Health Advisory Board members, *except for the Legislative Advocacy and Public Affairs Committee which will, in addition, consist of at least three Alcohol and Substance Abuse Administrative Board members*, and may *also* include representatives from the community. Each committee will develop criteria for the community representatives. Membership will not exceed ten community representatives per committee, each serving two- or three-year terms. Terms may be renewed with committee approval, not to exceed six years. However, terms may extend for a period longer than six years until a successor is appointed. The committee chair or co-chair must be a member of the Mental Health Advisory Board *or, for the Legislative Advocacy and Public Affairs Committee, the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Administrative Board.*

Howard pointed out that the “ex-officio” designation for community representatives was eliminated because the Executive Committee believes that community members should have the right to vote. Eleanor made a motion, which was seconded, to accept the changes made in the bylaws under Article VII – Committees, Section 3. Committee Membership. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Quality Council (QC)

Ron Sterling, Quality Council Chair, sent a draft letter to Board Chair Howard Miller for board’s review and approval before it goes to Amnon Shoenfeld, MHCADSD Director. The letter is a follow up on the study of turnover of case managers. Howard said that due to current budgetary constraints faced by the Division, the recommendations submitted by the Quality Council stand little chance of being implemented. Ron said that the Council understands the situation but feels it is their responsibility to bring this issue to the attention of the Division. Shauna asked what the incentive was for case managers to be interested in the Quality Council recommendation to form a case manager organization. Ron responded that QC needs input from case managers to assist them in bringing their plight/problems to the attention of the Division. Howard added that the QC letter is intended also to encourage case managers by letting them know that the board is advocating for them. Ron stated that studying the case is not enough; QC feels it needs to make a

stand on the issue. Shauna disagrees theoretically with QC's approach. QC's recommendations seemed abstract to her. She suggested that in identifying the issues, the presentation should be more descriptive and the recommendations should be within the realm of realities. Eleanor said that on the recommendation about paperwork, the focus should be on how to fix it. Ron reiterated that the Council's role is advisory; thus their responsibility is to bring to the attention of the Division the problem by submitting their position on certain issues.

IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

This year's election of officers of MHAB was delayed for a month due to the joint board meeting in May.

Written ballots were turned in. Rhoda was asked to count the ballots.

The result of the election is as follows: Howard Miller garnered 7 votes for Board Chair; Ron Sterling received 6 votes for Vice Chair with one abstention; Eleanor Owen got one vote for Board Chair, ditto with Shauna Cheney for Vice Chair.

Howard will serve his second and last term as Board Chair, and Ron Sterling will serve his first term as Board Vice Chair.

V. MARKETING PLAN

At the outset, Sherry emphasized the department's support to the County Executive's commitment to appoint applicants to county boards and commissions from a demographic/geographic and culturally diverse representation.

Sherry shared the process she used in putting together the Department's 2003 Volunteer Board Recruiting and Marketing Plan. She talked to other departments in King County to determine what works and does not work. The recruitment ideas to be successfully implemented would need both board and staff efforts.

She underscored the basic marketing principles stated on page 4 of the document. The most critical one is to clearly define the product and show how wonderful it is. She also enumerated the challenges faced in recruiting members. The Board must be clear what it does and define its goals and accomplishments. The question "Why should I be a board member" is a question the board needs to answer in its recruiting efforts. Putting a face to a product is very important. A personal testimony from a current board member would be an effective tool in recruiting new members.

The document specified recruiting ideas on pages 5 & 6. Some of these ideas include developing a brochure that contains the goals/mission/ and other vital information about board membership. This is something that Jackie MacLean,

Department Director, could take wherever she is invited to speak in the community. The current Department Web Page needs refining to make it more interesting and inspiring. The sharing of information between boards on board opportunities and working closely with the Executive staff will connect us with the community to recruit needed representation. Sherry encouraged the board to attend community meetings to promote the board. She suggested that if the board needs an African American member, go to African American meetings, if it needs members from Eastside, attend their community meetings.

Howard said that board members are not professionals in coordinating this process so the board needs somebody to do this for them. Ron Sterling volunteered to work with Sherry in upgrading the Board's Website. At the same time, Eleanor volunteered to identify the community council chairs and their schedule. She will bring this information to the next board meeting. Linda Brown, KCASAAB Chair, reminded the board of the need to define what it is looking for in board membership. The current board material is informative; it just needs a face on the product.

Howard asked Sherry to date the draft document to avoid confusion regarding which document is most current.

The Board will review the document further and will resume discussion of the document at next month's board meeting.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Legislative Advocacy and Public Affairs Committee

Eleanor Owen deferred her report for next month since Geoff Miller has already provided a complete report of what took place at the June 25th Legislative Advocacy and Public Affairs Committee meeting.

B. Nominations Committee

Due to last month's decision by the board regarding recruitment, action on the application received from an applicant this week is being held up for four months. The pending application is from a district already represented on the board.

C. Quality Council

The Council discussed at length details of the final recommendations to the King County Regional Support Network regarding a study on case manager's turnover. There was also a discussion on supervised living contract and the need to review these facilities.

VII. STAFF REPORT

Amnon gave a brief update on the budget.

The good news is that the Division did not suffer a significant cut this time. The King County Regional Support Network (KCRSN) did not receive rate cuts and the Chemical Dependency received additional funding for criminal justice related services. Given the size of the state deficit, the Division did very well. A question was asked as to how many people who leave the jail with mental health problem are not COD? The response was "significant." The COD Tier program will be operational by August 1st.

Mental Health Division rates for King County for the next biennium were determined by an actuarial study of the Medicaid-covered services provided to Medicaid patients in the first half of 2002. King County came out the highest of all RSNs in the state because we invested resources to develop an excellent information services system, and because we focused on serving Medicaid patients and cut back on services to non-Medicaid patients when resources were cut.. We will not suffer a significant budget cut for the first time in three years. Medicaid eligibility may be decreased by the State, with changes in Medicaid eligibility, and that would decrease revenue to the RSN. Amnon said that he is not sure yet if the Division will have any extra money. He stated that in the event there is a surplus, the Division has discussed options for spending the money, including the possibility of dedicating some funding for case manager's salary increases or for their training. The Division would ask providers to earmark this funding solely for that purpose. Amnon was asked about the outcome of the Prevalence Study. He said that the Study will be issued this autumn.

Eleanor commended Amnon for his efforts to advocate for the target population. She added that Amnon took advantage of the unity of the county in addressing the funding problem. Amnon attributed part of the success to the lobbyist hired by the Department to assist our stakeholders to send a consistent, unified message to legislators.

VIII. LIAISON REPORTS

- **Freda Monroe: Mental Health Court/Asian Counseling & Referral Services**

Not present to give a report.

- **Jack Fuller: Community Psychiatric Clinic**

Not present to give a report. Board Chair Howard has informed Jack that he has assigned Mindy Meyring as board liaison for Community Psychiatric Clinic. Jack is fine with it and promised to be at the August board meeting.

- **Howard Miller: Downtown Emergency Service Center**

The agency is renovating the Morrison Hotel so there will be fewer beds available for their clients for the next 24 months. Howard said that the agency is active in addressing the issue of homelessness. However, Seattle's efforts to solve homelessness leave much to be desired. Howard will resume his attendance at the board meeting this autumn.

- **Eleanor Owen: Partnership Group**

The Partnership Group did not meet this month.

- **Clifford Thurston: Community House**

No report at this time.

- **James Nobles: Chronic Populations Advisory Council**

There was no CPAC meeting this month.

- **Shauna Cheney: Consejo Counseling & Referral Services/Seattle Counseling Service**

Shauna did not receive a response from Consejo Counseling & Referral Services regarding attending their board meeting so she didn't attempt to attend the board meeting this time.

The Seattle Counseling Service (SCS) had a potluck at their board meeting. The agency received an anonymous gift through United Way. SCS has been certified by State DASA as a chemical dependency provider. The agency is doing a rapid, confidential HIV test..

Shauna informed SCS's board about the need of our board for qualified applicants for board membership.

- **Gwendolyn Williams: Therapeutic Health Services**

THS holds their board meeting in the evenings, which conflicts with her working schedule. Howard suggested that she ask for a copy of their board meeting minutes if unable to attend the meeting.

- **Debra Roszkowski: Harborview Mental Health Services**

Not present to give a report.

- **Helen Nilon: Seattle Mental Health**

Not present to give a report.

IX. BOARD AND COMMUNITY CONCERNS

A. Ticket To Work

Eleanor stated that the written report on the Ticket to Work is inadequate. She noted that the report does not provide information on what is being done to encourage people recovering from mental illness to engage in the program. She felt the bill as implemented has disincentives for those network members to engage in the program due to its payment structure. The report claims that in the State of Washington there are 140,000 vouchers available to access the Ticket to Work. Eleanor questioned this numerical data on the vouchers' availability. She plans to present this issue to the Quality Council to investigate the facts. Ron said that this issue would be a part of a recovery report.

B. Good Newsletter

Eleanor passed around a copy of the latest issue of the *Good Newsletter*. She would like to contribute an article that would reflect the experience and concerns of family members to major mental illness in their future publication. She also asked that all MHAB and KCASAAB members be included on their mailing list.

C. New NAMI Washington Executive Director

NAMI Washington has a new Executive Director, Judy Eakin. She has excellent administrative and management skills with over 25 years of professional experience. She was instrumental in structuring and setting up two not-for-profit organizations and is proficient with all of the underlying reporting and management required for such groups.

D. MHCADSD Annual Exemplary Awards

The Annual Exemplary Awards ceremony will be held on October 2, 2003 at the University of Washington, Center for Urban Horticulture at 4:30 p.m. Nominations for the exemplary awards are due for submission by July 25th.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m. Following a short break, the Executive Committee met to set the agenda for the August 12th board meeting.

Respectfully submitted:

Rhoda A. Naguit
Recording Secretary

Attested by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Howard Miller".

Howard Miller
Board Chair